such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitisation of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

Status of Economic Packages for States

*205. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many economic packages have been announced by the different Prime Ministers, so far, during 1980s and 1990s for North-Eastern Region, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and other States;

(b) the present status of those economic packages;

(c) whether the Prime Minister, being the Chairman of Planning Commission, has made a proper system in Planning Commission for the allocation of special funds for the States which deserve special attention; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Announcements have been made from time to time by Prime Ministers when they go on visits to the State. These announcements are sometimes called "packages" and are for overall development and benefit of the State. During the last three years, such announcements have been made for Jammu & Kashmir , West Bengal, North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. The then Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu & Kashmir on 13th-14th February, 1997 announced some measures for accelerated development of the State.

On 10.2.1999 certain measures were announced for West Bengal by Shri Pramod Mahajan, the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and special representative of the Prime Minister at Calcutta.

On 22nd January, 2000 Prime Minister announced an Agenda for Socio-Economic development in the North-East and Sikkim at Shillong.

(b) Decisions contained in the economic package are considered for implementation jointly by the Ministries of Government of India alongwith the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) Annual Plans of the States are prepared in consultation with the Planning Commission keeping in view the areas requiring special attention and their requirement for funding. In the process of finalisation of the Plans of the States, Planning Commission takes into account the special problems encountered by different States and wherever possible funds are made available to such States, to address their special problems.

Cases Pending with Labour Courts

*206. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals;

(b) if so, the number of such cases;

(c) whether several cases are pending for five years and even ten years;

(d) the total number of such cases in Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure speedy finalisation of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Statement showing the total number of cases pending, pending between 5 to 10 years with Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (as on 31.12.99).